

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A microorganism transformed with a gene construct containing the ilvD gene, [and/or] the ilvBNC genes or both the ilvD gene and the ilvBNC genes, in which microorganism the activity of one or more enzymes that are specifically involved in the synthesis of D-pantothenate is [weakened] reduced or eliminated, wherein said one or more enzymes are selected from the group consisting of panB, panC, panE and panD and said activity of said one or more enzymes is reduced or eliminated as a result of deletion of all or a part of the nucleotide sequence encoding said enzyme in said microorganism and wherein said microorganism is a microorganism that can produce L-valine from glucose, sucrose, lactose, fructose, maltose, molasses, starch, or cellulose or from glycerin or ethanol.

15. (currently amended) The transformed microorganism according to Claim 14 in which the activity of the enzyme ketopantoate hydroxymethyl transferase (panB) [and/or] the enzyme pantothenate ligase (panC) or both panB and panC [is weakened or eliminated] is reduced or eliminated as a result of deletion of all or a part of the nucleotide sequence encoding said enzyme in said microorganism.

16. (currently amended) The transformed microorganism according to Claim 14 in which the activity of the enzyme threonine dehydratase (ilvA) [that is involved in the synthesis of L-isoleucine is weakened or eliminated] is reduced or eliminated as a result of deletion of all or a part of the nucleotide sequence encoding said ilvA in said microorganism.

17. (currently amended) The transformed microorganism according to Claim 14 [characterized by] wherein said microorganism is *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

18. (new) A method for the production of L-valine comprising the step of culturing a microorganism transformed with a nucleotide sequence encoding ilvD and a nucleotide sequence encoding ilvBNC, under conditions wherein said microorganism produces L-valine, wherein said microorganism is a microorganism that can produce L-valine from glucose, sucrose, lactose, fructose, maltose, molasses, starch, or cellulose or from glycerin or ethanol.

19. (new) The method of claim 18 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding ilvD comprises the portion of SEQ ID NO: 1 encoding ilvD.

20. (new) The method of claim 18 wherein the activity of ilvA in said microorganism is reduced or eliminated as a result of deletion of all or a part of the nucleotide sequence encoding said ilvA in said microorganism.

21. (new) The method of claim 18 wherein the activity of at least one enzyme in said microorganism selected from the group consisting of panB, panC, panE and panD is reduced or eliminated as a result of deletion of all or a part of the nucleotide sequence encoding said enzyme in said microorganism.

22. (new) The method of claim 21 wherein said at least one enzyme is panB or panC.

23. (new) The method of claim 22 wherein said at least one enzyme is panB and panC.

24. (new) The method of claim 20 wherein the activity of at least one enzyme in said microorganism selected from the group consisting of panB, panC, panE and panD is reduced or eliminated as a result of deletion of all or a part of the nucleotide sequence encoding said enzyme in said microorganism.

25. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein said at least one enzyme is panB or panC.

26. (new) The method of claim 25 wherein said at least one enzyme is panB and panC.

27. (new) The method of claim 18 wherein said microorganism is a gram-positive bacterium.

28. (new) The method of claim 27 wherein said microorganism is a *Corynebacterium* species.

29. (new) The method of claim 28 wherein said *Corynebacterium* species is *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

30. (new) A method for the production of L-valine comprising the step of culturing a microorganism in which the activity of ilvD is increased as a result of mutation of the endogenous gene encoding ilvD, under conditions wherein said microorganism produces L-valine, wherein said microorganism is a microorganism that can produce L-valine from glucose, sucrose, lactose, fructose, maltose, molasses, starch, or cellulose or from glycerin or ethanol.

31. (new) The method of claim 30 wherein the ilvBNC activity of said microorganism is increased as a result of mutation of the endogenous gene encoding said ilvBN or ilvC or both.

32. (new) The method of claim 30 wherein said microorganism is transformed with a nucleotide sequence encoding ilvBNC.

33. (new) The method of claim 30 wherein the activity of ilvA in said microorganism is reduced or eliminated as a result of deletion of all or a part of the nucleotide sequence encoding said ilvA in said microorganism.

34. (new) The method of claim 31 wherein the activity of *ilvA* in said microorganism is reduced or eliminated as a result of deletion of all or a part of the nucleotide sequence encoding said *ilvA* in said microorganism.

35. (new) The method of claim 34 wherein the activity of at least one enzyme in said microorganism selected from the group consisting of *panB*, *panC*, *panE* and *panD* is reduced or eliminated as a result of deletion of all or a part of the nucleotide sequence encoding said enzyme in said microorganism.

36. (new) The method of claim 35 wherein said at least one enzyme is *panB* or *panC*.

37. (new) The method of claim 36 wherein said at least one enzyme is *panB* and *panC*.

38. (new) The method of claim 30 wherein said microorganism is a gram-positive bacterium.

39. (new) The method of claim 38 wherein said microorganism is a *Corynebacterium* species.

40. (new) The method of claim 39 wherein said *Corynebacterium* species is *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.